

Life Science Stories



Deserts

Story by Andrew Frinkle

Earth has a lot of deserts. Deserts make up about one third of all land! There are deserts on all 7 continents. These places can be cold or hot, but they are always dry.



Hot deserts are sandy places, like the Sahara Desert in Africa. Some deserts don't get any rain for a whole year! Others get less than 10 inches per year. When it does rain, special desert plants drink the water up quickly. There can even be flowers. Animals have adapted to life in an area with very little water.



Usually, we think of deserts as sandy, hot places. There are cold deserts, too. Some cold deserts are high in the mountains. Others are near the ocean. The two largest deserts in the world are the north and south poles, and they are very cold!

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NAME:

Deserts

1. Deserts make up about one _____ of all land.

- (A) half (B) fourth (C) fifth (D) third

2. Which of these is NOT a desert?

- (A) North Pole (B) ocean (C) Sahara (D) South Pole

3. What is the weather like in ALL deserts?

- (A) rainy (B) windy (C) humid (D) dry

4. DEFINITION: one of Earth's 7 large pieces of land

- (A) yard (B) island (C) continents (D) spots

5. All deserts are hot places.

- (A) True (B) False

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ANSWER KEY

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